

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus, comprising:
a data store storing receiver operable to receive image data defining an image;
a receiver receiving data identifying a sequence of different selector operable to select one or more portions of the in-an image as portions of the [[an]] image which are to be sequentially emphasized emphasised; and
an image processing unit processing the stored operable to process image data received by said receiver to generate a sequence of [[a]] composite images in which the portions of the said composite image defined by image data are sequentially emphasized, wherein the portions of each composite image identified by the receiver corresponding to said portions to be emphasised selected by said selector correspond to the said portions of the image defined by data stored received by said the data store receiver and in which other portions of the said composite images image in the sequence of images correspond to the other portions of the image defined by the said data stored by the data store received by said receiver to which a blurring function has been applied.
2. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein said image processing unit comprises:
a blurring engine generating operable to generate a blurred image corresponding to an image stored by the data store received by said receiver; and
a composite image generator generating operable to generate composite images comprising portions of images selected from images defined by image data stored by the data store received by said receiver and portions of images generated by said blurring engine. engine on the basis of selections of portions of an image to be emphasised made by said selector.
3. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 2 wherein the said blurring engine generates is operable to generate blurred images corresponding to

images stored by the data store ~~received by said receiver~~ by deriving pixel values for pixels in a blurred image corresponding to pixels in an said image defined by stored ~~received~~ image data by calculating a weighted average of stored ~~received~~ image data weighted by a function dependent upon the distance between a pixel in an image for which pixel data is being generated and a corresponding pixel in said image being utilized ~~utilised~~ to calculate said weighted average.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein said image processing unit generates ~~is operable to generate~~ a composite image by determining pixel data for areas of an image ~~selected by selector as portions of an image~~ to be emphasized ~~emphasised~~ by copying image data for said pixels from image data stored by the data store ~~received by said receiver~~ and to determine pixel data for the remaining portions of a composite image by calculating for pixels in said remaining portions of a composite image a weighted average of stored ~~received~~ image data weighted by a function dependent upon the distance between a pixel in an image for which pixel data is being generated and a corresponding pixel in said image being utilized ~~utilised~~ to calculate said weighted average.

6. (Original) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 5 wherein said function dependent upon distance comprises a Gaussian function.

7. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 5 wherein said image processing unit comprises:

a function data store storing function data defining a plurality of functions for deriving ~~operable to derive~~ composite image data from image data stored by the data store ~~received by said receiver~~ in which some portions of a composite image correspond to said portions of the image defined by data received by said receiver and in which other portions of said composite image correspond to the other portions of the image defined by said data stored by the data store ~~received by said receiver~~ to which a blurring function has been applied;

a selection unit selecting ~~operable to select~~ function data defining a function from said function data store on the basis of the one or more areas selected as portions of an image to be emphasized ~~emphasised by said selector~~; and

a processing unit generating ~~operable to generate~~ a composite image utilizing ~~utilising~~ image data stored by the data store received by said receiver and function data selected by said selection unit.

8 - 9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein said image processing unit processes ~~is operable to process~~ image data stored by the data store received by said receiver to generate a composite image in which portions of the image defined by data stored by the data store received by said receiver which do not correspond to portions to be emphasized ~~emphasised selected by said selector~~ correspond to said portions of the image defined by said data stored by the data store received by said receiver to which a number of different blurring functions have been applied.

11. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 10 wherein ~~said selector is operable to associate portions of said image with~~ data indicative of levels ~~a level of importance wherein~~ are assigned to portions of an image and said image processing unit is operable to generate a composite image in which portions of a composite image associated with decreasing levels of importance appear to be increasingly blurred.

12 – 38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) An image generation method, comprising:

receiving image data and data identifying a sequence of different

identifying one or more portions in of an image as portions of an image which are to be emphasized sequentially emphasized; and

processing received image data to generate a sequence of composite images in which the portions of the image defined by received image data are sequentially emphasized, wherein the portions of each said composite image identified by received data as the corresponding to said portions to be ~~emphasised~~ emphasized ~~identified by received selection data~~ correspond to said portions of the image defined by received image data and in which other portions of said composite images in the sequence of images correspond to the other portions of the image defined by said received image data to which a blurring function has been applied.

40. (Currently Amended) A non-transient computer readable medium storing computer implementable instructions for causing a programmable computer to:

receive image data and data identifying a sequence of different;

~~identify one or more~~ portions in an image as portions of an image which are to be ~~emphasised~~ sequentially emphasized; and

process received image data to generate a sequence of composite images in which the portions of the image defined by received image data are sequentially emphasized, wherein portions of each said composite image corresponding to said identified by the received data as portions to be ~~emphasised~~ emphasized ~~identified by received selection data~~ correspond to said portions of the image defined by received image data and in which other portions of said composite images in the sequence of images correspond to the other portions of the image defined by said received image data to which a blurring function has been applied.

41. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus, comprising:

a ~~receiver operable to receive data~~ store storing image data;

a selector ~~operable to select~~ selecting one or more portions in an image as portions of an image which are to be ~~emphasised~~ emphasized; and

an image processing unit ~~operable to process~~ processing image data ~~received stored~~ by said ~~receiver data store~~ to generate a composite image in which the portions of said composite image corresponding to said portions to be ~~emphasised~~ emphasized selected by said selector correspond to said portions of the image defined by data ~~received stored~~ by said ~~receiver data store~~ outlined by a border of a defined ~~colour~~ color and in which other portions of said composite

image correspond to the other portions of the image defined by said data ~~received-stored~~ by said ~~receiver-data store~~ to which a blurring function has been applied.

42. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 41 wherein said image processing unit comprises:

a blurring engine ~~operable to generate~~ generating a blurred image corresponding to an image ~~received-stored~~ by said ~~receiver-data store~~; and

a composite image generator ~~operable to generate~~ generating composite images comprising portions of images selected from images defined by image data ~~received-stored~~ by said ~~receiver-data store~~ outlined by a border of defined color and portions of images generated by said blurring engine on the basis of selections of portions of an image to be ~~emphasised~~ emphasized made by said selector.

43. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 42 wherein said blurring engine is ~~operable to generate~~ generates blurred images corresponding to images ~~received-stored~~ by said ~~receiver-data store~~ by deriving pixel values for pixels in a blurred image corresponding to pixels in said image defined by ~~received-stored~~ image data by calculating a weighted average of ~~received-stored~~ image data weighted by a function dependent upon the distance between a pixel in an image for which pixel data is being generated and a corresponding pixel in said image being utilized to calculate said weighted average.

44. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 41, wherein said image processing unit is ~~operable to generate~~ generates a composite image by determining pixel data for areas of an image selected by selector as portions of an image to be emphasized by copying image data for said pixels from image data ~~received-stored~~ by said ~~receiver-data store~~ and to determine pixel data for the remaining portions of a composite image by calculating for pixels in said remaining portions of a composite image a weighted average of ~~received-stored~~ image data weighted by a function dependent upon the distance between a pixel in an image for which pixel data is being generated and a corresponding pixel in said image being ~~utilised~~ utilized to calculate said weighted average.

45. (Previously Presented) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 44, wherein said function dependent upon distance comprises a Gaussian function.

46. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 44, wherein said image processing unit comprises:

a data-function store storing function data defining a plurality of functions ~~operable to derive~~ deriving composite image data from image data ~~received-stored~~ by said ~~receiver-data store~~ in which some portions of a composite image correspond to said portions of the image defined by data ~~received-stored~~ by said ~~receiver-data store~~ and in which other portions of said composite image correspond to the other portions of the image defined by said data ~~received-stored~~ by said ~~receiver-data store~~ to which a blurring function has been applied;

a selection unit ~~operable to select~~ selecting function data defining a function from said ~~data-function~~ store on the basis of the one or more areas selected as portions of an image to be emphasized by said selector; and

a processing unit ~~operable to generate~~ generating a composite image utilizing image data ~~received-stored~~ by said ~~receiver-data store~~ and function data selected by said selection unit.

47. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 46, wherein said selector is responsive to receipt of status data identifying a default status to cause said selector to identify the entirety of an image as being the portion of an image to be ~~emphasised~~ emphasized.

48. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 47, further comprising:

a display generation unit ~~operable to generate~~ generating image data defining an image identifying at least one reading obtained by said one or more detectors and to pass generated images to said ~~receiver~~ data store.

49. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 41, wherein said image processing unit is ~~operable to process~~ processing image data ~~received-stored~~ by said ~~receiver-data store~~ to generate a composite image in which portions of the image defined by data ~~received-stored~~ by said ~~receiver-data store~~ which do not correspond to portions to be ~~emphasised~~ emphasized selected by said selector correspond to said portions of the image defined by said data ~~received-stored~~ by said ~~receiver-data store~~ to which a number of different blurring functions have been applied.

50. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 49, wherein said selector is ~~operable to associate~~ associating portions of said image with data indicative of a level of importance wherein said image processing unit is ~~operable to generate~~ generates a composite image in which portions of a composite image associated with decreasing levels of importance appear to be increasingly blurred.

51. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 41, further comprising:

one or more detectors ~~operable to obtain~~ obtaining readings of external conditions; and
a status determination unit ~~operable to determine~~ determining a current status on the basis of readings ~~received-stored~~ from said detectors;

wherein said selector is ~~operable to receive~~ receives status data from said status determination unit and select areas to be ~~emphasised~~ emphasized based on ~~received-stored~~ status data.

52. (Currently Amended) An image generation method, comprising:

receiving image data;
identifying one or more portions in an image as portions of an image which are to be ~~emphasised~~ emphasized; and

processing ~~received-stored~~ image data to generate a composite image in which the portions of said composite image corresponding to said portions to be ~~emphasised~~ emphasized correspond to said portions of the image defined by ~~received-stored~~ image data outlined by a

border of a defined ~~colour~~color and in which other portions of said composite image correspond to the other portions of the image defined by said ~~received~~stored data to which a blurring function has been applied.

53. (Currently Amended) A non transient computer readable medium storing computer implementable instructions for causing a programmable computer to:

receive image data;

identify one or more portions in an image as portions of an image which are to be ~~emphasised~~emphasized;

process received image data to generate a composite image in which the portions of said composite image corresponding to said portions to be ~~emphasised~~emphasized correspond to said portions of the image defined by ~~received~~stored image data outlined by a border of a defined ~~colour~~color and in which other portions of said composite image correspond to the other portions of the image defined by said ~~received~~stored data to which a blurring function has been applied.